



J. Dennis Hastert
Fourteenth District
Illinois

<http://www.speaker.gov>

Speaker's Press Office

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 13, 2006

CONTACT: 202-225-2800
Ron Bonjean or Lisa C. Miller

Speaker Hastert Floor Statement on the September 11th Resolution

(Washington, D.C.) Speaker of the House J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL) today issued the following statement on the House floor regarding H. Res. 994 relating to the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001:

“It was a day — September 11, 2001 — of unforgettable horror and unforgotten heroes. It was the day our buildings fell, and the day our people rose. The fear and anguish we felt that bright blue morning five years ago will never leave us, but the courage and iron resolve that carried us through the hours and days that followed must also remain.

“The war on terror — today being fought here in our homeland and around the world — must be won. Five years after 9/11, America is safer and much more alert to the dangers that lurk in the darker corners of our world.

“Those dangers yet exist, in Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, and elsewhere. They call themselves al-Qaeda, Hamas, al-Qaeda in Iraq, Hezbollah and many other names. But their differences of name and nationality neither erase nor even obscure the menacing ideology that binds them together as a single, indistinguishable enemy of freedom and justice and peace.

“This ideology of evil seeks not simply to dominate, but to destroy the will of all mankind — to control at the tip of a sword our every thought, word, and deed. Their ultimatum is simple: submit or die.

“Beginning on the morning of September 11th, 2001, aboard United Airlines Flight 93 in the skies over Pennsylvania, America decided to take a third option. We decided to fight back. Despite the overwhelming odds, despite circumstances that no other nation and no other military could hope to overcome, our resolve has not broken.

“In the five years since 9/11, our military and our intelligence services have thwarted dozens of attacks, large and small. Their efforts have saved countless lives. Along with our coalition partners we have overthrown dangerous dictatorships in Afghanistan and Iraq and started the free people of those nations on a road to democracy.

(MORE, MORE, MORE)

“These facts are all laid out in the resolution before us. But as important as it is to recite what we have done, it is more important for this House to assert what it intends to do. Let me quote from it:

“The House of Representatives ‘reaffirms that the American people will never forget the tragedy of September 11, 2001, and the loss of innocent lives that day, and will continue to fight the war on terrorism in their memory, and will never succumb to the cause of the terrorists.’

“To me, and I think to most Americans, after five years of security and success, a lapse in our resolve is unthinkable. Victory is not yet assured, and victory without resolve is impossible. Adoption of this resolution today will be a signal to our nation, to our troops, to our allies around the world, and especially to our enemies, that we will never forget and that we will never surrender.”

#